



March 2014

News

A Message from the President

The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia held its first committee meeting of the year on the 5th February 2014 after a well-earned Christmas break that saw the executives return energised and ready for the new year and what may come to their attention.



The previous year saw many beneficial changes occur, particularly at government level that had their beginnings as a direct result of agitation by members of the committee and others, on behalf of victims of an Asbestos Related Disease and potential sufferers. Among many innovative changes, one of the most important was the establishment of the Asbestos Registration Agency. This particular department will accept and confidentially store the records of any member of the community who believes he or she has been in contact with asbestos, even in the mildest cases. adfa strongly advises those who believe so should obtain an application form and register their details. There is no charge and it may be of assistance if and when a claim for compensation may arise. (Details of how to contact are on page 6).

Another event that will soon wind down is the findings of the "Asbestos Narratives Research Project" run under the auspices of the Southern Cross University based in Coffs Harbour. This survey has been running for more than a year and is designed to enable a better understanding of the social, psychological and economic impact of asbestos related disease (ARD) on sufferers and their families. adfa is proud to have been chosen to participate in such a vital undertaking and full marks must go to Professor Rick van der Zwan and his dedicated team for their effort.

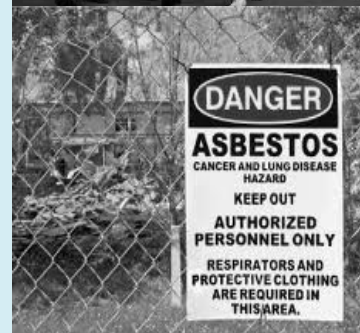
Another memorable event was the annual fundraiser. The fifth and best so far, some 630 guests turned up at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse and the air of conviviality and friendship pervaded the entire afternoon.

Awareness Day was a highly publicised affair that saw our Senior Patron Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC. CVO give a very memorable speech along with other dignitaries. As adfa seems to grow in stature we must be, as described by one prominent politician "a dominant presence among our peers and the envy of docile and mundane groups who contribute little to the overall sequence of events at hand".

While we have a busy year ahead, it is important to mention that adfa has been invited to a conference of world leaders associated with asbestos. I will be attending the conference, which is being held in Washington, to speak on behalf of the Foundation.

Barry Robson President,

Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.



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In the News

Penrith Council implement new asbestos policy

Following the Telstra NBN asbestos scare in Penrith last year, the council has responded to the need for better management of the removal and disposal of asbestos.

The new policy makes it easier for residents to report incidents of asbestos dumping and provides assistance for safe removal and disposal. Acting environmental health manager Anthony Price acknowledged that the incident had been a wake-up for the council.

“These kind of things happen and it’s important that we have a response to deal with it,” Mr Price said. “This new policy clearly defines key roles and we now know who does what.”

At a council meeting in February, Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc. president Barry Robson praised the council for taking the initiative on the safe handling of the deadly material.

“On the whole the council has done well in looking out for the ratepayers and the citizens with this policy,” Mr Robson remarked.

KiwiRail finds asbestos in Chinese-made trains

40 new locomotives have been pulled from service in New Zealand, after a routine inspection detected asbestos in the paint.

The Chinese manufacturer, Dalian Locomotive and Rolling Stock Co. Ltd has confirmed that white asbestos had been used in a sound-proofing compound. Following a similar discovery in Australia last year, in which 10 locomotives were pulled from service after workers were exposed to asbestos.

KiwiRail chief executive Peter Reidy claims the contract with Dalian Locomotive and Rolling Stock specified that no asbestos was to be used.

“We are clearly very disappointed with the situation and working closely with the manufacturers to understand how this could possibly have occurred,” he said. “They have taken full responsibility for this and have undertaken to do whatever is necessary to rectify the situation as quickly as possible.”

Despite initial concerns of potential exposure to asbestos, independent testing has confirmed that no airborne fibres or dust has been detected in the locomotives. However, KiwiRail are still not able to say when the locomotives will be back in service. In the meantime they will continue to undertake extensive risk assessments and work with the manufacturer to have the asbestos removed.

In the News

Origin Energy suspends drilling over asbestos find

Origin Energy, operator of the Australia Pacific LNG project, has suspended drilling at coal seam gas sites in Queensland after asbestos was found in drilling fluids.

The company announced to the market today that it had taken the precautionary measure to suspend its drilling operations across 12 rig sites in south west central Queensland to allow for an investigation into a supply incident.

“This measure follows notification from one of our drilling fluid supplies, Australian Mud Company, that an imported product (NUTPLUG) sometimes used in drilling fluids has been found to contain asbestos,” Origin said.

Origin Energy, which has the nation’s biggest CSG reserves, said that when it was notified by AMC of the potential of affected material it took immediate precautionary action to safeguard its employees, contractors and landholders.

“All stocks of affected material have been quarantined and accounted for throughout the supply chain from storage warehouse to site, and specialist waste removal experts are in the process of removing that material from each location for safe disposal,” the company said.

“In the interim, an alternative product has been sourced.”

Expensive clean-up underway after asbestos dumped at Gundagai, Nangus landfills



Engineering Director, Phil McMurray, says the dumping's, at Gundagai and Nangus occurred within the last fortnight, with bonded asbestos found among builders rubble.

Mr McMurray says WorkCover and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) have been informed and council has isolated the asbestos.

He says it cost ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars for the decontamination of the site and for the asbestos to be removed.

“We’ve engaged the services of an occupational hygienist to control and monitor and oversee the clean-up process,” he said.

“We have to engage a licensed contractor, they’ll suit up, wrap the asbestos in plastic suitable for disposal later on”.

“Council needs to hire an excavator, tipper, water cart and we’ve got to buy the material to industry standard under a heap of fill at our facility.”

“It’s going to cost the good ratepayers of Gundagai in the tens of thousands of dollars at this stage to clean up this mess.”

Information on how to dispose of asbestos can be found on the WorkCover website: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

People convicted of illegal dumping asbestos can be fined up to \$5000, or be prosecuted, with penalties up to \$1m.

ADFA NEWSLETTER RESEARCH SUMMARY

Do you have malignant mesothelioma?

Are you or have you been a carer for someone with this disease?

Would you be interested in answering some questions about your experience with mesothelioma?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO THE ABOVE, WE INVITE YOU TO FILL OUT OUR SURVEY.

DOING THIS WILL HELP US LEARN ABOUT HOW PEOPLE WITH MESOTHELIOMA MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT ANTI-CANCER TREATMENT.

If you agree to take part in this study, **we will mail you the questionnaire to complete at your convenience** along with a reply-paid envelope. The questionnaire includes sections on diagnosis, treatment, decision-making and issues associated with mesothelioma.

Your responses are entirely anonymous. A confidential participant number will be given to each questionnaire, and the study researchers will only see this, not your name.

If you would like further information on the study or to request a questionnaire, please contact Ms. Anne Warby, Research Officer. On 02-9767 9816 during business hours or leave a message on our Free Call Research Number at anytime and we will call you back: 1800 778 167.

Your contribution could make a difference to people diagnosed with mesothelioma.

* This study is being carried out by the Centre for Medical Psychology & Evidence-based Decision-making (CeMPED) at the University of Sydney and the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI). The people responsible for the study are:

A/Professor Janette Vardy, Medical Oncologist, Concord Repatriation General Hospital (CRGH)

Dr Haryana Dhillon, Behavioral Scientist, CeMPED

Dr Prunella Blinman, Medical Oncologist, CRGH

Dr Steven Kao, Fellow, ADRI

Professor Nico van Zandwijk, Director, ADRI

* The study has been approved by the Ethics Review Committee (Concord Zone) of the Sydney Local Health District. Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study should contact the Executive Officer on 02-9767 5622 and quote protocol number HREC/12/CRGH/122.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



John Halfnight's Memorial Fundraiser

On February 26th the second John Halfnight's Memorial Day was held at North Ryde Golf Club raising funds for the Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.

The total raised through the BBQ and Raffle in less than 2 days was \$2735!! A tremendous effort and way outdoing any expectations.

On top of this extraordinary sum the North Ryde Golf Club Board then also have generously added another \$2,000 donation toward the cause.

I am so humbled and grateful for the support of all members and the club. It is of up-most importance to my family, to not only remember my Dad and honour his memory, but do our bit for a foundation fighting to help the families, friends and victims of Asbestos by creating awareness, understanding and reducing future cases.

A sincere thank you to everyone involved.

Carrie Valbuena.

ADFA would like to pass onto Carrie Valbuena and her family as well as the North Ryde Golf Club a very huge thank you for the generous donation and support to adfa in the name of her father John Halfnight.



INOGEN ONE OXYGEN UNIT FOR LOAN

Those members who may require oxygen at any time please contact the office as we have a few units that we can lend out for anyone requiring a portable unit.

Each case will be assessed and paperwork will need to be signed for the loan of the units and condition will apply.

Please ring Eileen Day 0419 227 631 for a chat regarding units.

Anyone wishing to apply for the position of Public Officer please give Eileen Day a call on her mobile: 0419 227 631 and Eileen will be happy to explain the position and what would be required of you. The Newsletter is not a requirement for this position..



Remember ADFA is always looking for Volunteers. If you would like to join us or find out ways in which you can help, please give Jean a call on 9637-8759.

DID YOU KNOW...

That Removal of damaged asbestos from a residential or commercial investment property as a tax deduction.....

If you are the owner of a residential or commercial investment or commercial investment property you may be able to claim a deduction for the removal of asbestos from the property. Depending on your circumstances, the removal of damaged asbestos from an investment property may be classified as an environment protection activity under section 40.755 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth.)

Further advice on your eligibility to claim a deduction for the removal of asbestos from investment properties can be obtained from the Australian Tax Office on 13 28 61 or through a qualified financial advisor..



Australian Government
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

THAT the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency was established on 1 July 2013 to provide a national focus on asbestos issues, which go beyond workplace safety to encompass environmental and public health issues. The Agency will ensure asbestos issues receive the attention and focus needed to drive change across all levels of government.

THAT the Government has created a register to record the details of members of the Australian community who think they may have been exposed to asbestos containing materials.

The National Asbestos Exposure Register is managed by the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency.

If you think you may have been exposed to asbestos containing materials you can register your details by completing the National asbestos exposure register form [PDF 1.57MB](#) and:

- ◆ Emailing it to: enquiries@asbestossafety.gov.au or
- ◆ Print and fax to: (02) 6204 2029

Once completed please send to: nwm@deewr.gov.au (www.deewr.gov.au/national-asbestos-exposure-register)

THAT Friends or relatives may register the name of an individual who has died as a result of a work related accident or subsequent diseases or illness on the National Workers Memorial Honour Roll on the website. Only information published on the National Workers Memorial Honour roll is the full name of the deceased. If you wish to submit the name of an individual who has died as a result of a work related accident or subsequent disease or illness, please complete the Honour Roll form [\(PDF 170KB\)](#) ([/sites/nationalworkersmemorial.gov.au/files/NWM-Voluntary-Honour-Roll-Form.pdf](http://sites/nationalworkersmemorial.gov.au/files/NWM-Voluntary-Honour-Roll-Form.pdf)) .

Review and Workers' Compensation Policy Team
Safety and Compensation Policy Branch
GPO Box 9880,
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Central Coast Asbestos Diseases Support Group

Support, information & advocacy for people living with asbestos diseases.



Our group is becoming smaller with the loss of Ross Whitelaw who passed away on 31st December 2013 our sympathy goes to Yvonne and the family. It pleases me to see that Yvonne and Sue Kearney are still attending the meetings they help to keep us together. Trevor Starr has been hospitalised a few times in the past month I am keeping in touch with him and his partner Robyn who has recently had a hip replacement operation we hope better times ahead for them. Bev Grant rang and informed me that George is in Gosford hospital we hope he will be home soon feeling a bit better. I had an informed meeting with the cancer care nurse at Gosford Hospital leaving our information about the support group and how adfa can help anyone diagnosed with an asbestos disease.

I attended the launch of the Asbestos Narratives Report this is the findings from the interviews that some of our members gave to Julie Tucker from Southern Cross University the main analysis found that carers needed more support and that many sufferers who lived in regional areas were isolated and had no support or others to talk about their conditions. A private website named Dusted Community has been formed by Desiree Kozlowski from the University and can be accessed through www.dustedcommunity.com or by contacting Jean at the adfa office. I recommend this site as much work has been given to its conception. More busy times ahead Cheers for now.

Maree Stokes, Vice President AFDA

Co-ordinator Central Coast Asbestos Diseases Support Group

Support Group Meetings

4th Wednesday of every month

1pm—3pm

Ourimbah Bowling Club

6– 22 Pacific Highway,

Ourimbah NSW

Contact:

Maree Stokes

0419 418 190

Law fails asbestos home renovators

ABC NEWS

A Byron Bay lawyer representing asbestos victims says the third wave of victims in Australia will have no legal recourse.

A study by Professor Rick van der Zwan from the Southern Cross University has found that future victims will probably have been exposed to asbestos during home renovations, with women making up about 50 per cent of those affected.

Byron Bay personal injury specialist Maurice Castagnet has spent years representing people who contracted asbestos-related illness through their workplace.

He explained to the ABC about where the law sits for those who contract the illness through home renovation.

"Well the current legal avenues for every member of the public is in relation to their workplace and that is their employer, so if you suffered an asbestos related injury at work then you would have recourse to your employer to sue and of course the employer would have the insurer covering these claims in most circumstances," Mr Castagnet said.

"But in the current situation if someone suffers the same fate at home because of home renovation being done by their husband, the wife in these circumstances won't be able sue the husband, similarly children fall in the same category if their parents have been renovating, there won't be any recourse to any legal benefits," he said.

He said there is simply no insurance that can be claimed for home renovators, with no legal entity to sue.

He also warned that governments face a hefty bill for the care of the next wave of asbestos sufferers.

Mr Castagnet says with no compensation for home renovators, the burden of caring for the sick will fall on government agencies.

"They would certainly have to be looking at public health insurance, Medicare, public hospitals and then there's financial hardship with a lot of these people unable to work and that means relying on Centrelink," Mr Castagnet said.

But two major law firms dealing with dust diseases have assured sufferers of asbestos-related illnesses they may have a strong claim for compensation, if their disease was contracted during home renovations.

Law firm Turner Freeman has told the ABC they deal with a large number of clients in that situation.

Partner at Turner Freeman, Tanya Segelov said the manufacturer of the product containing the asbestos can be sued.

"Most people who contract mesothelioma will be able to make a claim," she said.

"In the case of home renovations, if you are able to identify the manufacturer of the product, then in a normal case you are able to sue the manufacturer.

"In a large number of cases, the manufacturer is James Hardie - who was the major producer in Australia."

Ms Segelov said these sorts of cases are becoming increasingly common.

"The latest data is showing that 15 percent of cases for men, and 35 percent of cases for women, are non-occupational home renovation-type exposure," she said.

"And given the long latency period, we will see more and more of this exposure, as we see less exposure in employment."

ABC NEWS

From the Desk of Our Lawyers

Turner Freeman welcomes back Lisa Lake to the Dust Diseases group at Turner Freeman's Parramatta office. Lisa previously worked at Turner Freeman from 1987 to 2000. She assisted the Managing Partner Mr Armando Gardiman in establishing the Turner Freeman office at Parramatta and over those years acted for many clients suffering from Dust Diseases. She also worked closely with ADFA, supporting it in its formative years.

Since leaving Turner Freeman, Lisa has worked for the current Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Anthony Albanese (a patron of ADFA) and as a Senior Policy and Legislation Officer with the New South Wales Food Authority.

Lisa will be working Wednesday to Friday at the Parramatta office in the Dust Diseases Team led by Turner Freeman's Managing Partner, Armando Gardiman.

We are very pleased to have somebody with Lisa's experience in dust diseases working with us again.

**Turner
Freeman**
Lawyers

You can contact Turner
Freeman on their Toll Free
Number : 1800 800 088

With Special Thanks to Mike O'Donnell

Mike joined ADFA as a member in July 2004. He became the Public Officer after a few years of being a member. This role he held until his retirement in December 2013.

As the Public Officer Mike found that the old style newsletter needed vamping so revived it to the style you find today, showing that there was a need to have a better medium for channelling information to adfa members, especially those who were unable to attend regular meetings.

Mike also made sure that a copy of the Newsletter made its way to the offices of politician, both state and federal, as well as Councils and many who are involved with asbestos.

One of Mike's fond memories is when Barbara Hall agreed to join adfa and became a patron, and when the ABC televised "Devil's Dust" showing the story of James Hardie during the Bernie Banton era. He was proud that ADFA's genuine asbestos widows were included in this: Eileen Day, Maree Stokes, Helen Davis and Thelma Day, along with other adfa members.

Mike became a vital cog in ADFA and will be missed. We are forever grateful for your contribution and hard work... enjoy your retirement...





A special thank you to Dorje & Alannah for their help in getting the newsletter....it was very much appreciated..



**ADFA IS AGAIN CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS IN JULY & WOULD LOVE
YOU TO COME JOIN US ON 16 JULY FOR
A TRIP TO BUTTAI BARN**



Great Music, Great Fun!



Come Join Us.....

As we Travel north to Buttai Barn for a Christmas in July celebration.

Celebrate Christmas with the gang at Buttai Barn and their cosy log fires, thousands of fairy lights, Santa and his bell with carols by candlelight.

On arrival you will enjoy homemade scones, than a traditional baked Christmas lunch followed by delicious plum pudding with brandy sauce plus chocolates from Santa....

Cost per person: \$ 40.00...includes Bus, Meal & Entertainment....Drinks to be purchased by yourself.

To Book you place, please contact Jean on 1800 006 196 or (02) 9637 8759

RSVP: 29 May 2014 – Payments to be made by 19 June 2014



LADIES & GENTLEMAN, place your bets for.....

The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc. Gala Race Day 2014 Saturday 1st November – Derby Day

**This Year's
event is one
that you do
not want to
miss!!!**



The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc. (**adfa**) is a not-for-profit organisation working to provide support to people living with asbestos related diseases, family members, carers and friends. **adfa** is a community based group founded by the union & concerned citizens to meet the needs of people affected by asbestos related diseases and has a long history of being engaged in advocacy work within the Australian community.

adfa works to provide information to the community as to the dangers of asbestos. Our aim is to reduce the number of people exposed to asbestos and future incidence of asbestos related disease in the Australian community.

We support members living in metropolitan and regional NSW. We are actively engaged in health promotion initiatives in the provision of education to the wider community.

Help us support ADFA's vital funding for asbestos sufferers and their families by purchasing a Race Sponsorship Package.

Watch each race in comfort in **The Grand Pavilion** while enjoying a three course meal, fine wines, beer and soft drink, with the added convenience of betting facilities within the room.

Fantastic items will be available in the silent and live auctions and raffle prizes and games.

Rosehill Gardens is easily accessible for all visitors. There is ample free parking and the venue is serviced by public transport, including a train station at the front door at Rosehill Gardens.

• RACE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

- ❖ Entry into Racecourse
- ❖ One Table of 10 includes lunch & beverages
- ❖ Naming rights to one race
- ❖ One full page mono advertisement in RACE Book
- ❖ One on course sign on day 10m x 1m in strategic position
- ❖ Signage at Winning Post for sponsored race
- ❖ Sashing of Winning horse in race & framed sashing photo with winning horse
- ❖ Associated media coverage – All races shown live via TVN in over 2,000 pubs and clubs Australia wide plus NZ, Fiji, Hong Kong, Foxtel Digital via homes and on Broadband. All races are broadcast live via 2KY Radio.

Full Sponsorship: \$12,000 (GST inclusive) – includes 10 tickets to the event for you & your guests.

Alternatively Single Tickets - \$200 (GST inclusive) or a Table of 10 - \$2,000 (GST inclusive)

AS THE 1ST NOVEMBER IS DERBY DAY we will be celebrating our event in a **BLACK & WHITE** Theme.

Prizes awarded for: **BEST BLACK & WHITE HAT**
MOST UNUSUAL HEADWEAR
BEST BLACK & WHITE OUTFIT FOR
MALE & FEMALE

Dress Code: Smart Casual



Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc

P.O. Box 484, Granville NSW 2142 Ph: 1800 006 196 Email: info@adfa.org.au

**ROSEHILL
GARDENS**

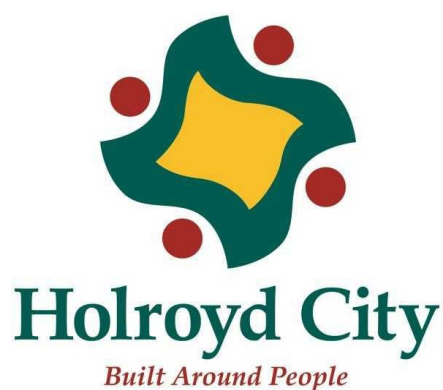
Thank you to our Supporters



**Turner
Freeman
Lawyers**



WASTE CONTRACTORS &
RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION
OF N.S.W



Thank you to our many Supporters

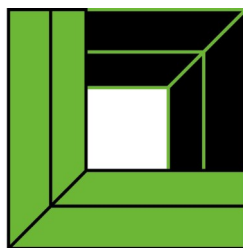


**Maritime
Mining
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you first. always.



**Cancer
Council**
NSW



LIDORAN
GROUP



CFMEU
**CONSTRUCTION
AND GENERAL**
NSW BRANCH

nhads

NEWCASTLE and HUNTER

Asbestos

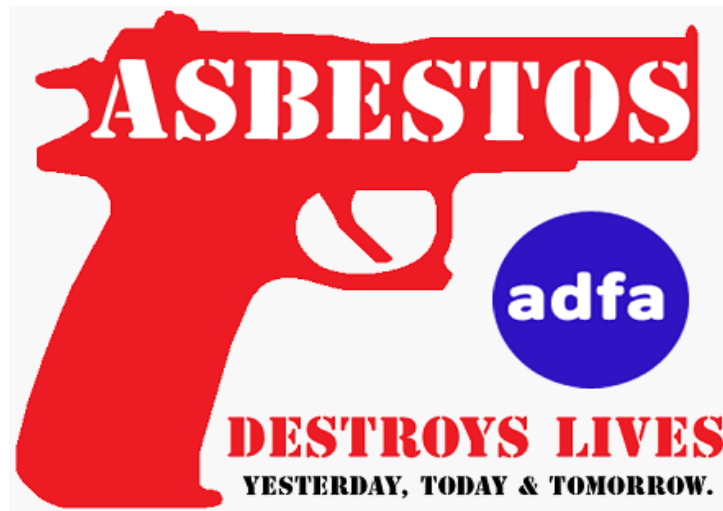
Mountain Media Pty Ltd

CIVILEX
AUSTRALIA



Action Demolition & Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd





Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.

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Granville NSW 2142

Toll Free: 1800 006 196

Phone: (02) 9637 8759

